MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Clashes in Beirut, Zahlah--Violent clashes continued in both Beirut and the Christian town of Zahlah throughout the weekend, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. Beirut radio reported that although fighting in Zahlah stopped at noon on 3 April to allow Red Cross supplies in, clashes later resumed. Voice of Lebanon radio accused Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) of thwarting attempts to impose a cease-fire in both Zahlah and Beirut over the weekend. After a short period of calm on 5 April, "violent battles" erupted in the capital on 6 April, Beirut radio reported, while the situation in Zahlah was still "explosive." Earlier, on 3 April, Lebanese Public Works and Transport Minister Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut from Damascus, Beirut radio reported. According to Damascus radio, he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who stressed Syria's concern over events in Lebanon, and they decided to take "some measures" to help establish security in Lebanon.

Beirut radio reported on 4 April that the Lebanese Army was to assume responsibility for security in Zahalah, but the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Syrian authorities "categorically rejected" such a suggestion. Voice of Palestine said the Syrians will allow Lebanese Army units to enter Zahalah only if they are placed under the command of the ADF. On the other hand, AFP, citing Lebanese press reports, said Syria would accept the entry of the Lebanese Army if the Phalangist militia withdrew from Zahlah.

Damascus Talks--PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat led a PLO delegation that met in Damascus on 4 April with a Lebanese Nationalist Movement delegation and the Syrian leadership, Voice of Palestine radio reported. According to a later Voice of Palestine report, 'Arafat said that during the meeting, a number of decisions were made on confronting the "isolationist-Israeli escalation" in Lebanon.

Syrian Comment--Syrian press and radio commentaries have blamed the outbreak of fighting in Beirut and Zahlah on the Phalangist militias. Commenting on the motive for the Phalangists' action, a 3 April TISHRIN commentary, reviewed by Damascus radio, said it was taken on behalf of Israel and the other enemies of Syria: The United States, Jordan's King Husayn, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and those who want to keep Lebanon a "bleeding wound" on the body of the Arab homeland. A 4 April TISHRIN commentary, reviewed by Damascus radio, asserted that the Phalangists want to keep Lebanon "bleeding" in order to divert Arab attention from the "core" of the Arab cause. A 4 April Damascus radio commentary said Zionism and U.S. imperialism need a cover for their "conspiratorial moves" in the Middle East and thus "instigated" the Phalangists to "explode" the security situation in Lebanon. They have been exposed, however, and their plans will not succeed, it added.

Israeli Reaction--According to Jerusalem radio's English service, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel will not "sit by idly and remain apathetic to the massacre of civilians" in Lebanon. Another Jerusalem radio report said Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, stressed that Israel's commitment to Lebanon applies to all Lebanese citizens, not just those in the south. In an interview with IDF radio, however, Deputy Defense Minister Mordehkay Tzipori drew a distinction between events in the southern Lebanese border area and those in northern Lebanon. Any change in the south, he said, would necessitate "immediate" action by Israel, while events in the north should be watched and examined. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio, citing unconfirmed reports, said Israel has warned Syria about events in Lebanon, demanding that Syria stop the "massacre" of Christians there.

Haddad Reaction--In a 4 April speech, broadcast live by the Voice of Hope radio, Christian militia commander Maj Sa'd Haddad pledged that his forces would shell Sidon until the shelling of Zahlah stopped. Voice of Hope reported later that day that Haddad's forces

shelled both Sidon and An-Nabatiyah. The Voice of Palestine reported that the "Zionist-isolationist" forces shelled all the main towns and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon on 5 April, while Voice of Hope reported on 4 and 5 April that Marj 'Uyun and other Christian towns came under fire from "terrorists and Syrian forces."

Haig Middle East Tour

Talks in Egypt--U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig arrived in Cairo on 4 April, on the first leg of a tour of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. According to MENA reports, Secretary Haig met the same day with Egyptian Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and held talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali. MENA reported that the talks concerned three subjects: 1) the Middle East situation and the peace process, including the question of a multinational force to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai; 2) a review of the subject of the stability of and foreign interference in the area; 3) bilateral relations. According to MENA, Ghali said that during the talks the Egyptian side emphasized: 1) Egypt's status as a nonaligned state; 2) the importance of the Palestinian question to the Middle East problem; 3) Egypt's links with the Arab, African and nonaligned states; 4) Egypt's efforts to form a UN-sponsored peacekeeping force for the Sinai. If efforts in regard to the latter fail, Ghali said, Egypt will seek a multinational force that would have no connection with U.S. strategy. Secretary Haig held a 2-hour meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat on 5 April, Cairo radio reported. The two men later held a press conference, the text of which was carried by MENA, at which As-Sadat described the meeting as "fruitful and constructive."

Talks in Israel--Secretary of State Haig flew to Israel on 5 April where he held talks with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and other ministers. Jerusalem television reported that the two sides discussed the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the proposed multinational force, the strategic situation and the arms race in the Middle East, and the current Lebanese crisis. The discussions did not resolve U.S.-Israeli differences on the supply of arms to Saudi Arabia, the television claimed. Secretary Haig met with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres the following day. Afterward, the Israeli opposition leader told Jerusalem radio that he found himself in agreement with Secretary Haig on most issues raised at their meeting.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Good Offices Committee--Habib Chatti, Islamic Conference secretary general and spokesman of the good offices committee mediating between Iran and Iraq, arrived in Iran on 3 April, Tehran radio reported. It later reported that Chatti met in Khuzestan with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and submitted the good offices committee's latest peace proposals. According to the radio, Bani-Sadr said after the meeting that the proposals will be discussed with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and the Supreme Defense Council and a reply will be sent to the good offices committee. The proposals, he added, show "progress" in meeting Iran's conditions for a cease-fire. The proposal that a committee be formed to investigate the "aggression" is a "clear and positive" development, he said, and the withdrawal of forces has been made to "coincide" with the resolution of the border conflict. However, he concluded, Iran must find out if its conditions have been met; if not, Iran should continue its "resistance."

Chatti visited Baghdad on 4 April, INA reported, where he discussed the latest peace proposals with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Acting Foreign Minister Hamid 'Alwan. On his return to Jidda the same day, Chatti said that the committee's mission has reached a "positive stage" and that both Iran and Iraq have shown "great interest" in the committee's peace proposals, Riyadh radio reported. He added that both countries are expected to reply to the proposals within the next few days.

Hammadi Tour--According to reports by INA and SPA, Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi made brief visits to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on 4 and 5 April, delivering messages

from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the leaders of those countries. According to Amman radio, the message he delivered to Jordan's King Husayn dealt with the military situation in the Iran-Iraq conflict, the activities of the Islamic Conference good offices committee and relations between Iraq and Jordan. INA reported that while in Kuwait Hammadi told journalists that President Husayn thought it necessary to consult with other "fraternal" Arab countries on "some important matters."

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported that Iranian planes attacked four Iraqi bases deep inside Iraq on 4 April. Commenting on the raid in a radio interview, Iran's defense minister and air force commander, Col Javad Fakuri, said that eight Iranian fighters had attacked a military complex near the Jordanian border, destroying Tupolevs, fighters and long-range bombers. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that Iranian planes raided an Iraqi airport near the Syrian border. It claimed the planes came from "inside Syria." Iranian planes also hit residential areas in Kirkuk, the communique said. Iraqi communiques reported successes on the ground over the weekend, particularly in clashes in the Gilan-e Gharb, Mehran and Dezful regions. Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces captured 64 Iraqis in offensive operations west of Dezful. The radio also reported that Iraqi artillery and missiles hit Ahvaz over the weekend.

PARS on Egyptian Arms Sales--In a 4 April commentary reacting to the disclosure by Egyptian President as-Sadat that Egypt has sold military equipment to Iraq, the Iranian news agency PARS said Iraq's claim that the sales does not signal any change in Iraq's policy toward Egypt is "absolutely false." The commentary linked the sale with visits to the Middle East by the British defense secretary and the American secretary of state and with the Iraqi foreign minister's recent visit to the United Kingdom. Egypt, it continued, is sending arms to Iraq with the "direct permission" of Washington. Iraq is under so much pressure because of the "military calamity" it is suffering in the war with Iran that it no longer tries to hide its relations with Washington, it added.

Iran

Explosions in Qom--Tehran radio reported that two bombs exploded in Qom on 3 April, one on a bridge and one at the entrance to Qom's great mosque. The revolution guards later issued a statement, reported by the radio, that said about 30 people were injured. According to the clandestine Radio Iran, at least 40 were seriously injured in the explosions, which occurred while Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri was presiding over Friday prayers at the mosque. The clandestine Voice of Iran radio said members of "national resistance groups" claimed responsiblity for the explosions.

Clashes in East, North--Baluchi "freedom fighters" attacked revolution guards on 26 and 27 March, Radio Iran reported, killing 12 guards in the first attack and completely destroying a military column in the second. Citing ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, AFP reported that revolution guards clashed with Mojahedin-e Khalq members on 2 April in the northern town of Katalem, killing one.

Khamene'i on Communist Threat--Addressing Friday prayers in Tehran, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said that world radio reports of the dangers of communism in Iran are aimed at causing Muslims in the region to become pessimistic about Iran's Islamic revolution and at giving "imperialists" an excuse to "launch an attack" in the region. In his sermon, broadcast by Tehran radio, Khamene'i said that the United States is Iran's "real foe" and that communism is weak and insignificant in Iran. The people, he added, will never stop hating communists because "before and after" the revolution Marxist elements dealt "many blows" to the people.

Israel

Moshe Dayan announced officially on 4 April the founding of a new list of candidates to run for the Knesset elections, Jerusalem radio reported. The list is to be called the Movement for State Renewal and will be headed by Dayan.

Jordan

Citing a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH by an "informed Palestinian source," SPA reported that the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut, who was kidnapped on 6 February, is still alive and living in an Arab country. The source added that those who kidnapped him could offer the Jordanian Government "specific" conditions for his release.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO HUNGARIAN LEADERS

LD032238 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, has sent congratulatory telegrams on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the Hungarian people's independence to Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] Central Committee; Pal Losonczi, president of the Hungarian People's Republic Presidential Council and Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In these telegrams Babrak Karmal expressed best wishes for the great success of the people of Hungary under the leadership of the MSZMP and expressed confidence that the further strengthening of friendly relations between our countries and the consolidation of fraternal cooperation are in the interests of the people of the two countries, world peace and progress.

ZIRAY-LED DELEGATION ATTENDS BULGARIAN CONGRESS

LD060912 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] A high-level PDPA delegation headed by Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the Revolution Council Presidium, recently arrived in Sofia to participate in the Bulgarian Communist Party Congress. The delegation was received by high-ranking Bulgarian party authorities, the DRA ambassador and members of the Afghan Embassy in Sofia.

The Afghan delegation participated actively in the congress. The Afghan delegation also participated in a 30 March meeting of Afghan students in Sofia. One of the delegates delivered a speech, which was warmly received by the audience.

BRIG GEN GOL AQA ADDRESSES ARMED FORCES SEMINAR

LD041924 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Brig Gen Gol Aqa, member of the party Central Coimmittee, member of the Revolution Council Presidium and head of the Armed Forces Political Affairs Department, this morning opened a seminar for the Armed Forces Political Affairs Department campaigners in the Ministry of Defense Conference Hall.

Among other topics, Brig Gen Gol Aqa explained the duties of the armed forces political campaigners and the manners and maturity needed to further the propaganda efforts by soldiers, NCO's and officers, and to draw their attention to strengthening and consolidating the ranks, progress, combat preparedness, military discipline, callup time and attendance of the armed forces.

Members of the department of political affairs and a number of officers were present at the opening of the seminar. One source said that the Armed Forces Department of Political Affairs campaigners seminar will continue for 5 days.

INTERIOR MINISTER ADDRESSES SARANDOY CADRES MEETING

LD052352 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] A meeting of the cadres of the activists of the Sarandoy Democratic Youth Organization from the capital and the provinces opened this afternoon in the hall of the Sarandoy Academy.

Honorary medals and emblems of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan [DYOA] Central Committee were awarded by Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader, member of the PDPA Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council Presidium and head of the Central Committee Department of Justice and Defense, to a number of courageous policemen who patriotically and courageously took part in the elimination of the enemies of the people and the revolution and those policemen who, after completing their conscription period and receiving their discharges, came forward to serve in the force and defend their national honor.

At the beginning of the meeting, the national anthem of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was played. Subsequently, Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, member of the party Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council and minister of the interior, submitted a comprehensive report concerning the principal tasks of the democratic organizations of the Sarandoy youth. He said: It is a matter of pride and pleasure that the courageous youths of our police, by realizing their historic and revolutionary mission, have come forward in the present conditions of the country and in the process of the evolution of the national-democratic revolution to take part in the elimination of rebels and subversive bands and the maintenance of order in the ranks of the country's police forces, despite completing their additional service.

The minister of interior, while pointing out the spirit of sacrifice and heroism of the police youths, in particular members of the Sarandoy Democratic Youth Organization, said: The members of the Democratic Youth Organization are dutybound to make a sincere and faithful effort in the realization of the goals of their party and revolutionary government and, besides the elimination of terrorists and saboteurs in the country, endeavor more than before to maintain order and security all over the country.

The BAKHTAR correspondent said: In the course of the meeting Brig Gen Gol Aqa, member of the party Central Committee, member of the DRA Revolution Council Presidium and general director of the DRA Armed Forces' Political Affairs Department, made a statement concerning the revolutionary and historic tasks of the Sarandoy Democratic Youth Organization in the present, critical and responsible stage of the history of the country. In the course of appreciating the struggling spirit, courage and bravery of the guardians of the national honor, homeland and revolution, he demanded their serious attention toward the elimination of the bands from abroad and the enemies of the people and revolution.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that after [the interior minister's] comprehensive speech, a number of cadres and activists of the Sarandoy Democratic Youth Organization of the capital and the provinces spoke in connection with the comprehensive speech, giving assurances and promises to the government and the party authorities to continue their services and to maintain order and security all over the country, and said: We, self-sacrificers of the path of revolution and freedom, will not lay down our weapons until the bloodthirsty and seditious enemy no longer exists nor embarks on conspiracy and intrigues against the interest of the masses of toilers of our country; we will not sit in comfort until we completely eliminate them.

Subsequently, Farid Nohzat, secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, praised the patriotic spirit of the members of the Sarandoy Democratic Youth Organization in the liquidation of the enemies of the revolution, people and homeland. In his statement, he said: It is a matter of great pride that you, sarandoy, loyal members of the DYOA, have accomplished your important and responsible duties with full faith and worthiness and in the manner you pledged to your party and your revolutionary government. Now, as your duties are not over, go and accomplish them, whether they include your mission in the struggle front and the complete elimination of the rebel bands, or the mission towards the coordination of the masses of the people, with faith in the prosperous and glorious future and in the complete victory over the enemies from abroad.

The BAKHTAR reporter added that at the end of the meeting a congratulatory message of the Sarandoy Democratic Youth Organization of one of the provinces was read, and after an assessment of the general outcome by the general director of the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry of Interior, the meeting ended with the playing of the DRA national anthem.

LORD CARRINGTON'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN, PRC CRITICIZED

LD051748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] The talks between British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington and the Chinese leaders have ended. From the outcome of these talks it could be concluded that the approach of the two countries to international affairs is still negative and they are, in fact, seeking to increase tensions and (?continue) interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Lord Carrington's route, which included a visit to Islamabad and a visit to the camps of Afghan counterrevolutionary bandits in the border areas, is indicative of this fact. Another argument in support of this is the expressions of Deng Xiaoping during his talks with Carrington, in which he said: Afghanistan and Kampuchea must be considered as front-line issues.

Lord Carrington said at a press conference that Britain and China have similar views on most issues, including relations with the developing countries, most of which are still facing instabilities inherited from British colonialism. Lord Carrington assured his Chinese accomplices that the British Government will welcome broad, hostile actions against Kampuchea. They also discussed bilateral relations in their talks and Hong Kong was the center of their special attention.

AFP: DRA TROOPS DEPART KABUL TO REINFORCE PROVINCES

BK031819 Hong Kong AFP in English 1750 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] New Delhi, 3 Apr (AFP)--Soviet troops were playing a larger security role in the Afghan capital following the departure of a number of Afghan Army units from Kabul to reinforce army garrisons in the provinces, diplomatic sources said here today.

The informants here said the 4th and the 15th Afghan Armoured Divisions and the 7th and the 8th Infantry Divisions had started moving from Kabul beginning March 31 for Herat and Qandahar, two garrisons which suffered heavy casualties and desertions.

As a result, Kabul was largely depleted of Afghan troops, the sources said. Afghan rebels were fighting the Soviet-aided government troops in various provinces, the sources here said, and added that the rebels had raised their flag in Lashkar Gah, west of the Pakistani border province of Qandahar recently.

GULF WAR NONALIGNED PANEL MEETS WITH GANDHI

BK041605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] The four-member panel of foreign ministers on the Iran-Iraq conflict met in New Delhi today and reviewed the latest situation. They later called on the prime minister and gave her their assessment of the developments and their plan to deal with the situation. The group is comprised of Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca, Zambian Foreign Minister Goma, head of the PLO's Political Department Faruq al-Qaddumi and External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao. It was set up at the recent nonaligned ministerial conference in New Delhi. The panel will hold another meeting tomorrow. Meanwhile, the foreign ministers are in touch with both countries and will draw up their future program in the light of communications from them.

Mrs Gandhi told the panel that conflicts like the one between Iran and Iraq divert the attention of the developing countries from the more urgent tasks of development. These countries, she said, have a big stake in the cause of world peace. She wished the ministers success in their efforts to bring about a settlement between Iran and Iraq within the framework of the Delhi declaration [of the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference in January 1981].

In a survey of the international situation, the prime minister also impressed upon the foreign ministers that the ideals for which the nonaligned countries have been struggling are in jeopardy. There is intensification of the arms race and growing interference in the internal affairs of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Highly sophisticated armaments are being inducted into various developing countries. She felt that these are matters of urgent concern. She was unhappy over the conflict between Iran and Iraq, both nonaligned developing countries. She underlined the fact that India is equally friendly to both of them.

Mrs Gandhi stressed that in spite of wrong interpretations given in some quarters to its foreign policy, India remains firmly committed to peace, nonalignment, and noninterference. India is also determined to pursue the path of better relations and understanding with her neighbors.

GANDHI URGES CAUTION IN ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN

BK050905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] The prime minister has urged the people to be vigilant at this juncture in view of the dangers in the vicinity of the country and the world at large. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a huge gathering at (Khatua) about 90 km from Jammu this morning. The prime minister said that the countries which are providing arms to Pakistan should take into account the present situation in that country. We are not afraid of the arms given to Pakistan, but past experience has shown that they were used against India.

Referring to the conditions in Jammu and Kashmir, Mrs Gandhi said the hand of friendship which had been extended by the Congress-I in the state had not been seized by the ruling National Conference. The prime minister pointed out that when Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah assumed power, he wanted the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress-I to merge with the National Conference, but how could a party which has spread its wings from Kashmir to Kanyakumari be wound up, she asked.

About the problem of the displaced persons in the state, she said it had not been solved because of the complicated laws of the state.

Reiterating that the center is not interested in toppling any non-Congress-I government in the states, Mrs Gandhi said they had been provided with every assistance. She said Jammu and Kashmir had been provided with 9,000 million rupees for its sixth 5-year plan. Earlier, Mrs Gandhi was accorded a rousing reception when she arrived at (Khatua) by helicopter from Pathankot.

INDIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

Regional Security Problems

BK041548 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1514 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] The deterioration in the international environment for peace over the last year and the perceptible escalation of tensions in India's immediate neighbourhood demanded greater vigilance on India's part to safeguard its security against any threats. Underscoring this, the Ministry of Defence annual report 1980-81 released on 3 April noted that the outbreak of armed conflict between Iran and Iraq in Spetember 1980 had greatly aggravated the situation in this region. The developments in Afghanistan towards the end of 1979 had already heightened the possibility of different types of reactions. In this context the report recalled India's efforts to defuse the crises in Afghanistan and reiterated the need for settling disputes among nations through peaceful means as regards the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Noting the enlarged military presence of the great powers in the Indian Ocean and Gulf region, the expansion of bases and facilities--in particular Diego Garcia base--and the presence of a Rapid Deployment Force by the United States, the report said India continued to urge that the Indian Ocean be converted into a zone of peace.

On Pakistan the report recorded India's concern with that country's move to acquire greater military potential under one pretext or the other and also on the reports about Pakistan developing a nuclear weapons capability. Despite Pakistan's commitment to resolve all outstanding issues with India bilaterally and through peaceful negotiations, she had internationalised the Kashmir issue at various forums including the UN General Assembly. As regards China, India had continued the initiative to improve relations consistent with her national interest.

The report referred to the progress made in the International Conference on the Law of the Sea and said "the current international acceptance of a 200 nautical mile economic zone and 350 nautical mile continental shelf had greatly increased our responsibilities. The security of our water and seabed resources require an alert naval force." The report said that the officers and men of the armed forces continued to display professional competence of a high order on land, sea and air.

Equipment Upgraded, Replaced

BK041540 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1520 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] The Ministry of Defence annual report 1980-1981 noted that the armed forces continued to be progressively reequipped with modern weapons and equipment. While the modernisation was being achieved to the extent possible by the development and manufacture of indigenous equipment in the more sophisticated fields, weapons and equipments were being imported. The present armoured fleet was based mainly on the indigenous Vijyanta tank. While its mechanical reliability and offensive firepower were adequate, a modernisation programme to enhance its capability--particularly the "kill probability"--was in progress.

Side by side with implementation of the programme to develop an indigenous main battle tank with futuristic technology action was in hand to import the latest generation of modern tank to a limited extent. The report added that in the case of artillery, plans were afoot to induct equipment capable of firing heavier and more lethal shells at longer rates with a higher degree of accuracy and speed. The development of surface to surface rockets and missiles and an improved air defence artillery weapons system were also on the cards. The report noted that during the year under review the army had been able to augment their capability of assault bridging and track laying capability. In communications too the army was on the threshold of installing an automatic computer-based system designed indigenously to handle messages in major communications centres.

The Indian Navy's punch had gone up considerably with the commissioning of one squadron of seaward defence boats and the acquisition of the INS Rajput, the first of the Indian Navy's modern frigates acquired from the Soviet Union, the Ministry of Defence annual report said. INS Taragiri, the fifth leader class frigate constructed at Mazagon Dock Limited [MDL] was also commissioned. Six more frigates indigenously designed and of an improved version were to be constructed by MDL besides a number of smaller and specialised weapons constructed at Garden Reach and the Goa Shipyard. The report mentioned that as one of the major objectives of the navy's plan, several ships and submarines were being refitted and modernised. The report made special mention of INS Vikrant, which was undergoing a refit and modernisation at the naval dockyard, Bombay.

The Indian Air Force obtained a higher strike power with the replacement by modern aircraft of the Marut's and Sikhi's being phased out of service, the annual report of the Ministry of Defence said. It was also decided to induct AN-32 from the Soviet Union as a medium transport aircraft to replace the aging Dakotas and Packets. Apart from these AN-32 which are purchased, the rest would be manufactured and assembled in India by HAL. In view of the general shortage and high cost of aviation fuel and the high maintenance cost of aircraft, the report said that the air force was intorducing simulators and other training aids to improve the quality of flying and operational preparedness without the need for additional flying. This would also help improve flight safety which is accorded a very high priority at all levels in the service.

Scientific Achievements

BK041542 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1529 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Among the major projects undertaken by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, which had been made a new department in the Ministry of Defence since May 1980, were the development of defence technical gas turbine engines, the development of a number of (?alloys), a pilotless target aircraft and flight simulation facilities, the Defence Ministry's annual report said. A weapon carrier/launcher was successfully developed and a production order placed in HAL. Other important achievements were the development of new antitank mines, seat ejection cartridges for fighter aircraft and other escape aid power cartridges. Defence scientists also made major breakthroughs in electrical radar and instrumentation, high altitude agriculture [as received] and allied fields, engineering equipment and medical and behaviorial sciences. Their activities encompass almost every field of activity of the army, navy and air force.

ZIAUL HAQ ON GULF MISSION, U.S., INDIAN RELATIONS

BK031351 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Text] The Islamic umma peace committee has decided to set up a commission to go into the causes of the conflict between Iran and Iraq. This was announced by President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq on his return to Rawalpindi tonight after visiting Iran and Iraq as a member of the Islamic umma peace committee. He told a news conference that members of this mission have been drawn from different countries with the consent of Iran and Iraq. Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Habib Chatti had been assigned the task of doing the spadework for the setting up of this mission.

The president said the present mission of the Islamic umma peace committee had been undertaken following a positive response from Iran and Iraq to the package peace proposals presented to them during the last mission. He said the endeavor of the peace committee is to narrow down the differences between the two countries and to build up ways and means whereby the two countries could present their respective viewpoints.

He said he was glad that a great progress had been made by the Islamic umma peace committee during its present mission. It had been decided that the secretary general of the Islamic Conference should visit Iraq and Iran to have further talks with the leaders of the two countries. He said that the problems can be resolved only through a positive approach by Iran and Iraq. He hoped that the war between the two countries would soon come to an end in accordance with the wishes of the Islamic Conference and the Islamic umma.

Replying to a question he said the peace committee has also decided upon certain other steps to help to bring about peace between Iran and Iraq. The peace committee will continue its efforts and meet again as soon as possible.

Replying to a question about the hue and cry India raised over Pakistan's efforts to take steps for its defense, the president said that as an independent and sovereign country Pakistan had the right to acquire any military hardware that was essential for its defense. They would not tolerate any outside interference in this regard. He made it clear that Pakistan had no aggressive designs against any country and wanted to build up good relations with India. He pointed out that they had told the Indian Government that India could buy whatever military equipment that was wanted for defense purposes. He said they had not objected to the purchase of equipment, such as 200 Jaguar aircraft and also to the $1.7 billion of military hardware from the Soviet Union.

About the talks between Pakistan and the United States for economic cooperation and purchase of military hardware, the president said that (?there was) communication with the previous Carter administration and we are now having talks with the present administration about the bilateral relations between the two countries. He said in this regard they were discussing as to what assistance the United States is to give to Pakistan in the economic field and also in the matter of military sales. He pointed out that a relatively good part of Pakistani military hardware was of American origin. He said there is nothing substantial that he could tell at this stage about the talks with the new American administration.

Answering a question about domestic affairs, the president said that the reported alliance by some defunct rightist political parties is a good omen for the country.

He emphasized that what is required is to pay attention to national problems from national point of view, rising above self-interest. He prayed to God to guide them on the right path and to serve the country sincerely. He told a questioner that the question of lifting censorship, revival of political parties and the restoration of political activities will be decided upon by the Federal Cabinet. He would be presenting his own views to the Cabinet in this regard also. In reply to a question, he expressed the hope that the Federal Council will be set up in consultation with the members of the Federal Cabinet so that men of integrity and sincerity of purpose are selected as its members.

The president was asked whether Pakistan had thought of any commando action to deal with the hijackers of Pakistan International Airlines aircraft as had been recently done by Indonesia at Bangkok successfully. He replied that we would have such a plan but no permission was given by the Kabul authorities or the Syrian Government. He said as far as the Syrian Government was concerned, he was grateful to President Hafiz al-Asad for the help rendered by him in securing the release of the passengers, the crew and the plane. The president emphasized that the hijackers had met the same fate as they did at the Bangkok airport [words indistinct] to such terrorists in future, they would think twice before resorting to such a crime. Answering a question, he said, according to the information, the hijackers were still in Syria. They were under the custody of the Syrian authorities and their movements were restricted.

ZIAUL HAQ: MORE WEAPONS NEEDED 'PURELY FOR DEFENSE'

BK061056 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Excerpt] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan has no aggressive designs against any country but at the same time it could not foresake its right to defend itself. He was addressing officers and men of the Punjab Regiment at the regimental center in Mardan this morning on the occasion of the regiment's reunion celebrations.

The president emphasized that whatever arms were being acquired by Pakistan were purely for defense. The president said that despite limited resources every effort was being made to acquire necessary (?weapons) for the armed forces to bring them up as a modern defense force.

The president said as an independent and sovereign nation it was their right to determine as to what type of weapons were required to the country's defense and there could be no outside interference in this regard. He said nobody else had the right to assess the defense needs of Pakistan.

ZIAUL HAQ MEETS WITH U.S. ECONOMIC DELEGATION

BK050744 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] The nine-member U.S.-Pakistan Economic Council delegation led by (John L. Kedi) called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi last evening. During the meeting, which lasted for nearly an hour, the delegation exchanged views with the president on promoting trade and investment between the two countries. The delegation's visit is of an exploratory nature and will be followed by a visit from American industrialists and businessmen sometime next autumn.

The meeting was also attended, among others, by the federal minister for industries, the adviser on foreign trade, the adviser on business coordination and internal trade, the secretary general for foreign affairs and the federal secretaries of industries, finance and commerce. Some of the heads of various trading corporations, banks and leading business concerns were also present.

AIR FORCE RAIDS FOUR IRAQI MILITARY BASES 4 APR

Report on Raid

LD041516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1454 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a news report just made available to us.

The high-flying hawks of the Islamic air force, in the course of a raid against the military bases of the enemy deep within Iraqi territory, once again succeeded in demolishing the aspirations of the diabolical Saddam and inflicting heavy damages on the enemy.

According to a PARS report and as reported in Communique 457 by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces, our valiant air force pilots managed to bomb four of mercenary Saddam's military bases in the most distant locations of enemy territory; they blew up all the planes stationed at these bases.

It should be pointed out that the Baghdad regime recently purchased several Mirage jets from France.

Defense Minister Interviewed

LD051320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Following yesterday's daring thunderbolt operations by the Islamic Republic's Air Force during which Iranian aircraft raided four Iraqi bases, the minister of defense and commander of the Islamic Republic's Air Force [Col Javad Fakuri] in a radio and television interview today announced that the air raid resulted in the destruction of Tupolevs, jet fighters and Iraqi long-range bombers. We now draw your attention to our correspondent's interview with the commander of the air force:

[Begin recording] [Question] Colonel, may I ask you to comment on the raid our air force pilots launched yesterday against important Iraqi bases?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following some careful planning, the Iranian Air Force succeeded in attacking one of the most distant Iraqi bases with eight aircraft. This base, called (?H-3), is situated some 50 km from the Jordanian border; this is a base Saddam used to think was beyond our fighters' range. This complex, comprising four military centers, is where Saddam has been keeping a number of his aircraft, especially some of his Tupolevs and long-range bombers.

To respond to Saddam's nonsensical claims, in order to react to Saddam's attacks and in order to show Saddam that we are able to raid the entire Iraqi territory, and that if we are not launching more raids, especially on nonmilitary centers, it is simply because we have no wish to harm the Iraqi nation--for we consider this nation as our friend and brother--consequently we attacked the most distant Iraqi base and, as I reported, blew up the aircraft deployed there, or a number of them, or however many were there. This is particularly significant, since these aircraft were Tupolevs, fighters and long-range bombers.

The fact is that by now Saddam should have come to his senses, realizing that the whole of Iraq is within range of our jet fighters. Should Saddam fail to come to his senses, then we will raid any spot necessary in Iraq, until such time as Saddam comes to believe that he cannot continue his fight against the Army of the Islamic Republic as well as other combatants of the republic.

[Question] Could you please comment on the present condition of the air force?

[Answer] Our air force is enjoying quite a favorable state, as demonstrated by yesterday's air raid. The air force is enjoying an extraordinary state; in terms of morale it is in extremely high spirits. The totally devoted air force personnel are working night and day to present the Iranian nation with final victory. Needless to say, this recent mission was a culmination of a combined effort by the entire air force personnel; it reached fruition as a result of our combative and extremely daring pilots. God willing, the noble Iranian nation will witness more victories. Thank you. [end recording]

Khomeyni Comments

LD051353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni on morning of 5 April to a group of "slum dwellers and other classes of Tehran citizens"--recorded, duration 20 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Various groups have gathered together here; I do not wish to omit naming any particular group, so I therefore will refrain from naming each individual one. All of you are of the Iranian nation, followers of the Koran and hard-working people. The Islamic revolution, this important Islamic revolution, is indebted to the efforts made by this particular class, the deprived class, the slum-dwelling class, the class which brought this movement to fruition, without expecting anything in return. I consider you, you slum dwellers, superior to the palace dwellers, even if the latter deserve to be compared with you.

During the revolution, when I would see an old man, a slum dweller, coming out of his home in order to take part in demonstrations, whereas these palace dwellers who used to create obstacles and still do, I would say to myself that I would not exchange one piece of your hair with all of them. I went even further by saying that one should not even make any comparison between a single piece of your hair with them.

There were those who had no (?constructive) part in this revolution; those who are no good for anything but sabotage, who right now in various parts of the country are engaged in sabotage operations. These people have been simple bystanders, waiting for one party to win so that they can capitalize on it and reap the fruit. However, noticing what the Islamic Republic was doing was not compatible with their programs, they resorted to sabotage and supported whatever difficulty and destruction that subsequently emerged, be it in Kordestan or Baluchestan. Even now, when we are faced with the present war in the southern part of the country, these same people are distracting the nation's attention from the war; they are engaged in making propaganda in the streets and various localities.

Thank God, here I must express my gratitude and commendation to the forces engaged in war. Yesterday the air force demonstrated unparalleled courage when its fighters reached the remotest part of Iraq and destroyed them right there. I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the nation, if the nation gives me this right, to all these combatants and all these servants who are sacrificing their lives along our borders for Islam. I must say that the nation supports them. Thank God, yesterday they demonstrated a daring act and, without suffering any casualties, they crushed Iraq; they made it quite clear that had it not been for the fact that some innocent people might be harmed during such operations--for they like the Iraqi nation--they could have made the Iraqi Government understand that it is not competent enough to stand up to our young men. [shouts of approval and "God is great"]

Yesterday, when the military commanders came here, just before they left, Mr Fakuri, the commander of the air force, told me in confidence that he was going to launch an operation.

However, he did not say what it was; but it transpired later that it was an extremely important operation which had taken place, resulting in dealing a severe blow to the Saddam people.

Bani-Sadr Thanks Forces

LD051822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, Mr Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief of the armed forces, today sent a message of gratitude to the fighters at the war fronts in connection with yesterday's heroic operations. The text of the message is as follows:

General Fallahi, acting chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the past month, successive victories have been obtained on all fronts. All these victories are the result of the initiative of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, the engineers, [word indistinct] and the workers. During this period I have inspected a number of initiatives. [as heard] In addition to the decisive role these initiatives have in the victory of our armed forces, they also demonstrate the strength of the desire for initiative and for reinvigorating the mind. A victory which is achieved by the self-assurance and self-confidence of creative individuals will be a major sign of the cultural progress of this great and steadfast nation. As the result of its Islamic revolution, Islamic Iran again stands on its own feet, and by depending upon the fruitful thoughts and brave actions of its children it will bestow a true meaning to its independence. According to the teachings of the Koran, all those who take part in this great movement are worthy of God's grace and the gratitude of his servants.

Please convey my expressions of satisfaction and gratitude to the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their operations on Saturday, 4 April 1981--ingenious and brave operations which demonstrate their desire for self-sacrifice, devotion and heroic deeds from the beginning of the war; to the ground forces, the guards corps, the irregular forces and the tribal mobilization for their successive victories during the past 20 days on all the war fronts, brilliant and glorious operations which demonstrate their will to continue the war until the expulsion of the forces of the puppet regime of Iraq; to the navy for increasing their naval superiority and for putting the enemy's navy out of operation; to the gendarmerie, the police and the revolution committees, many of whom have been martyred in their just war against the aggressive forces; to the engineers, geologists [as heard] and workers who do their utmost in making initiatives and preparing war equipment. Every time I inspect their work my confidence is increased in the steadfast will of this generation to achieve greater comprehensive independence. They are the embodiments of their nation in deciding to continue to remain steadfast until the establishment of an independent culture. I become hopeful in observing their work and effort and I am confident that today's generation also becomes hopeful as the result of these endeavors and the victories which are achieved.

It is necessary that in recognition of their endeavors and self-sacrifice, decorations or suitable bonuses be given to them. Of course, such acts of gratitude by us cannot measure the true worth and value of the work of those who enjoy self-sacrifice in order to maintain the independence of the country and to establish the Islamic Republic. Only God Almighty can, and will, recompense such attempts.

[Signed] President and commander in chief of the armed forces, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, 5 April 1981

Rafsanjani Lauds Air Raid

GF051631 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] During the first Majlis session of the new Hegira solar year, and after speaking on Majlis activities and programs for this year, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded yesterday's heroic operation by the Iranian eagles in strafing the Iraqi military bases in the depth of the enemy's territory. Referring to the successive Iraqi rocket and artillery shelling of the residential areas in the southern and western parts of the country--which is a mark of Saddam's weakness, who has directed his savage and heinous campaigns against defenseless civilians--Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Our air force Heroes have appropriately retaliated against these rude campaigns. He added: Saddam launched his attacks against civilians whereas our valiant eagles strafed the Iraqi air-bases near Jordanian borders, which Saddam thought to be safe spots in Iraq. Our heroes bombed enemy aircraft instead of dropping their bombs on defenseless civilians.

The Majlis speaker praised the air force brothers for their successful operation and blessed this courageous step, which he considered to be a mark of our strength and Saddam's weakness.

Al-Hakim Cables Khomeyni

GF050936 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution, received a congratulatory cable today from Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim on the recent successes the Islamic forces have achieved against the forces of aggression and infidelity.

Al-Hakim has also congratulated all commanders, soldiers, revolution guards and Iraqi and Iranian mojahedin on this occasion. He said these victories are also victories for the struggling Iraqi people. He said he hopes they will mark the commencement of the overthrow of the infidel Saddam's regime so the Iraqi people can take charge and determine their fate in line with the teachings of martyr Ayatollah as-Sadr, and so they can establish a sacred Islamic republican government in Iraq.

At the end of his cable to the leader of the revolution, Ayatollah al-Hakim said he hopes that more successes will be achieved in order to liberate the oppressed and to support the army of Islam.

Iraqi Islamic Organizations

GF061038 Abadan NIOC Radio in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] The Iraqi Islamic unions and societies have sent a congratulatory cable to Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the wonderful successes that have been achieved by the falcons of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The following is the text of the cables:

In the name of God, the destroyer of tyrants. "Say truth has now arrived and falsehood perished, for falsehood is bound to perish." [Koranic verse] We have received the good news of the victory of Islam's hawks and their success in crushing the airbases of the army of agent and infidel Saddam. We look forward to the complete victory of both fraternal Muslim peoples and hope that the rule of God will soon be established in Iraq. May God be with you. He will grant you success.

Kuwaitis Celebrate Raid

GF060500 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] PARS has reported that after hearing the report that our heroic and brave hawks had bombed Iraqi military bases deep in enemy territory, joy and happiness filled all believing hearts and the hearts of the Islamic Republic's sympathizers in Kuwait. The citizens congratulated each other on this great victory and powerful blow that has been dealt to the Iraqi aggressors.

The agency added that after hearing the report, one of the committed Muslims called at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait and donated 4,118 Kuwaiti dinars to Iranians who have been rendered homeless by the war.

According to another report from Kuwait, more aid has been sent to Iran through the special committee stationed at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL MESSAGE TO KHOMEYNI

LD051912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 81

[5 April message from Supreme Judicial Council to Ayatollah Khomeyni]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Eminence, grand ayatollah, Imam Khomeyni, may your shadow extend. Your most blessed message on Islamic Republic day contained very valuable guidelines for the generous umma [community of Muslim believers] and officials of the country, including the Supreme Judicial Council.

It is a clear truth that the esteemed clerics who were invited to undertake judicial work by the Supreme Judicial Council and who accepted this invitation out of a religious commitment generally had no judicial experience before the victory of the revolution. Thus, it would be natural that mistakes and unsatisfactory performance would appear in the work of some of them. It is similarly also clear that out of hundreds of people who are engaged in this heavy task it is rare to see anyone having committed any offenses. The Supreme Judicial Council has taken action within its resources to investigate offenses, shortcomings or mistakes. Investigating teams have already been sent to public prosecution courts and offices to investigate the work of the judges and staff and to bring to book and punish those who have violated the standards of Islamic justice.

In this context, one of the judges was tried in court and after his offense was proved he was sentenced. The sentence was carried out. The file on another judge accused of offenses is being considered. Two lawyers who had been assigned by the Ministry of Justice to serve in these courts and who are accused of offenses are also under arrest and consideration of their case has started. In addition, several short-term periods of consultations regarding judicial and executive problems facing the judges have been held with all the judges. This has been effective in improving their work.

KHOMEYNI BRIEFED BY MILITARY COMMANDERS 4 APR

LD041106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, the acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the minister of defense and commander of the air force, and the commanders of the Ground Forces, the Navy and the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran were received in audience this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the audience the commanders of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran gave the leader of the revolution reports on various issues and the imam of the Islamic nation, in turn, issued the necessary guidelines for their benefit.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES CENTRAL MASHHAD MAGISTRATES

GF051328 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning received Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad (Deylami), the magistrate of the revolution court of the Central Province, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Salehi, the magistrate of the Mashhad revolution court. They briefed his eminence on the activities of the revolution courts in the Central Province and Mashhad.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES KHAMENE'I, TABASI 6 APR

GF061049 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council and Tehran Friday imam, and Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas-e Va'ez-e Tabasi, the official in charge of Imam Reza's shrine, this morning. The two men met with the imam separately and held talks with him.

CHATTI PRESENTS MEDIATION PROPOSALS TO BANI-SADR

LD031804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] According to PARS, Habib Chatti, the spokesman of the delegation investigating the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, conferred with the president in an unspecified city in Khuzestan Province this afternoon. At this meeting he submitted the latest proposals made by the delegation investigating the war imposed by Iraq on Iran to Bani-Sadr. These proposals were approved by the delegation at a session in Jidda yesterday. At the end of this meeting the president was interviewed by a PARS correspondent and said Habib Chatti presented the proposals made to resolve the conflict. We will discuss them with the imam and members of the Supreme Defense Council and send our reply to the delegation. As to what these proposals are, it is better to wait until the discussions have taken place; then they will be published together with our reply.

The president added: From my point of view, these proposals had one or two vague points, and we asked Habib Chatti for explanations. Now we will consider the proposals as a whole together with his explanations and will prepare a reply and send it to him. Asked by PARS if these proposals can present a solution to this crisis, the president answered: Of course, certain progress has been made with regard to these proposals as compared with earlier ones, including a proposal to establish a group to investigate the aggression. This proposal has been accepted, and this is a clear and positive development. The other point is that the withdrawal of forces and other steps somehow have been made to coincide with resolution of the border conflict. All of these can be taken as progress made toward the conditions which we have set. But the issue should be made clear and explicit to us, and we should find out if the three conditions which we have set have been met or not. If they are met, fine. If not, we should continue our resistence in order to protect the rights of this nation.

At the end of this meeting, Habib Chatti, in an exclusive interview with a PARS correspondent, said: I have come to Iran to submit the proposals made by the Islamic good-will commission to the president of Iran so that steps can be taken to ensure a cease-fire and to resolve the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

He added: As you well know, this delegation, having had many discussions with the Supreme Defense Council of Iran and Iraqi officials, went to Jidda and studied the replies given by both sides. We came to certain conclusions and made certain proposals, which have now been submitted to Bani-Sadr. He added: I was supposed to have come to Iran with Yasir 'Arafat, since we had both been selected by the delegation to bring these proposals to Iran. Unfortunately, however, his excellency was unable to come because of problems in Beirut. Habib Chatti added: I had fruitful discussions with Bani-Sadr. Of course, I cannot say that the issue has been resolved. But, I am certain that the will to settle the differences in such a way as to safeguard everyone's interests and respect for his rights, honor and pride is there and that this is in the interest of both countries and the followers of Islam.

BANI-SADR STATEMENT ON DEATH OF POLITICAL FIGURE

LD032326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] The following statement was issued by the president in connection with the demise of Allahyar Saleh [founder-leader of the Iran Party, one of the leaders of the National Front along with former Prime Minister Mossadeq and Iran's ambassador to the United States in early fifties]:

In His exalted name. Every soul shall have a taste of death [quotation from the Koran]. Allahyar Saleh, a noble man who spent all his life fighting tyranny and domination, has passed away. The name of this statesman, a faithful and sincere ally of Dr Mohammad Mossadeq during the movement aimed at nationalizing the oil industry, shall glow forever in Iranian history. As colonialism is attempting to obliterate outstanding Iranian figures, especially those of this century, from our history and thus present us as a nation without an identity, it is quite appropriate to hold dear the memory of this statesman Muslim and patriot.

I express my condolences to his family and the valiant Iranian nation.

[Signed] Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

BANI-SADR VISITS KHUZESTAN FRONT, HOLDS MEETING

GF050446 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] The president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, has inspected the installations positioned behind one of Khuzestan's fronts.

Dr Bani-Sadr also headed a meeting held in Khuzestan Province that was attended by the deputy commander in chief of the armed forces, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council and a number of officers. The situation on all the fighting fronts and the efforts being made to expel the aggressors from the land of Islam and to purge it of their filth were discussed during the meeting.

Returns to Tehran

GF051819 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief of the armed forces, has returned to Tehran after supervising over the operations in Khuzestan Province of the defenders of the Islamic Republic of Iran to purge the land of the Islamic nation of the stain of Saddam's aggressive mercenaries.

RAFSANJANI OUTLINES GOALS IN 5 APR MAJLIS SESSION

LD051728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session today. In the session, which opened at 0825 with recitations from the Koran and with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the chair, the bill concerning the country's expenditures during the first 2 months of 1360 [21 March-20 May 1981] was discussed and reviewed. Also present at the discussions were members of the Council of Guardians.

According to the Central News Bureau correspondent, a number of deputies spoke for and against the bill. Further discussion on the bill was postponed until the afternoon session. The meeting was adjourned for midday prayers.

At today's open session the Majlis speaker spoke on the outcomes of the deputies' tours of their constituencies. He said: The efforts and services you rendered and the inspections you carried out were of great value, and we hope you will pursue your findings and contribute to the removal of the problems of the public and the nation.

Speaking on the work of the Majlis, he said: The people's expectations, your will and the revolution's needs invite us to increase our efforts during the current year and to put the Majlis' schedule at the head of our work program. My request to everyone remains this: that whatever business you may have you should give the Majlis priority so that from now on we will no longer witness postponements of Majlis sessions.

The Majlis speaker added: The Majlis ruling body today decided upon the first step in making the Majlis more active. Last year's experience proved to us that on the day during which the Majlis open sessions were held in the last 2 months of last year the sessions were not very productive. Therefore, we have decided, as of next week, to hold Majlis open sessions on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday of each week. Wednesdays will be allocated to committee sessions. This year we have huge projects, bills and programs on our schedule. The country's governmental situation [edari] and the question of the councils ought to be decided upon. [councils are to be set up in each governmental department to act as a communicating channel between management, employer and the employees] Other questions to be decided are the question of ownership of industry, agriculture and waters, the bill relating to reconstruction and many other topics. Also, the fates of parties, groups and the press ought to be decided upon on the basis of Islamic regulations and justice. Should the Majlis be able to carry out these tasks this year, then it will have rendered its basic service; otherwise, it will have proved its weakness. Starting next week we will begin the open sessions at 0730.

BEHESHTI, RAJA'I, RAFSANJANI ON YAZDI APPOINTMENT

LD032048 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] The following statement was issued by the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, the president of the Supreme Court and the prime minister in connection with the appointment of Mohammad Yazdi to the commission investigating the conflict [between the Majlis, the prime minister and the Supreme Court president and President Bani-Sadr]:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The imam's calming message quieted the disturbed social atmosphere and neutralized the plot hatched by the counterrevolution which used its known and unknown aides to extend the disturbances and differences. But our enemies will undoubtedly not remain still and unoccupied and will use any vehicle and any opportunity to destroy the peace in our society, which is much needed in order to control the war and rebuild the country.

The formation of a commission to investigate differences and identify the offender, as indicated in the imam's message, can serve as a means by which to maintain the peace and neutralize the poison spread by the counterrevolution, which will, no doubt, continue to persist.

We welcome this wise order and introduce Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, the Qom deputy, as our representative. We are certain that the honorable members of this commission, recognizing their great duty, will carefully note all developments and the role played by our enemies and will protect the Islamic Republic from enemy plots by quickly identifying the offenders. Finally, we beseech the Almighty to grant them success in assuming the great responsibility for stopping disturbances and preventing the enemy from taking advantage of the situation.

[Signed] Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti, Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani

CABINET DISCUSSES AIR RAID, OTHER ISSUES 4 APR

LD042205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] The Cabinet held a meeting this evening with Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i in the chair.

According to a PARS report, at the beginning of this meeting Prime Minister Raja'i briefed the meeting on the government's new circular.

Following the commerce minister's report Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, briefed the ministers on the valiant attack by the fighting aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran on certain targets inside Iraqi territory, near the Iraqi border with Jordan, which resulted in the destruction of a few military positions and several Tupolev fighter aircraft belonging to the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces stationed at the bases near the Jordanian border.

Later Mr Mustafa Mir Salim, Interior Ministry under secretary and supervisor of the unofficial war-stricken foundation, briefed the meeting on problems which our war-stricken compatriots are facing as a result of the war imposed against Iran by the Iraqi Ba'th. He presented the Cabinet with a bill proposing the [official] creation of a war-stricken foundation. The Cabinet fully reviewed the bill and approved it. The bill will be presented to the Majlis soon.

The Cabinet concluded its deliberations at 2200.

RAJA'I ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO CIVIL SERVANTS

LD032056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 81

["Circular" from Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i addressed to civil servants; issued on 3 April]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate the entire Muslim nation, particularly the faithful hardowrking civil servants of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the beginning of the third year since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I would like to ask the civil servants to comply with the following:

1. The brothers and sisters should not delay in attending to the issues and matters referred to them by the public; they should consider such matters as their own within the context of their Islamic and revolutionary conscience and continue to carry out their Islamic and administrative jobs during business hours. Ministers and officials will attend to any complaints made in this regard by placing boxes in each department and, by the end of the week at the latest, will announce the necessary measures taken to punish offenders.

2. In order to continue the revolution there is, on the one hand, the need for more work and production and, on the other, less expenditure and consumption. The revolution will not be consolidated or continued by merely resorting to slogans and pretensions.

3. Our dear sisters must strictly adhere to observing the revolution's culture--that being Islamic dress and simplicity.

4. For half an hour, starting with the noon prayer, all businesses must stop, so that prayers may take place.

5. In order to thwart any kind of divisiveness and divisions as well as avoid any loss of solidarity and unity, all officials are dutybound to keep their working environment free from collective demonstrations [tazahorat] they should, if they wish, install pictures of the founder of the Islamic Republic, the seal of the Islamic Republic and God's motto in government departments. The esteemed employees should then transfer their personal and collective mottos to private homes or relevant locations.

Ministers and officials are required to adhere to the points mentioned in this circular. Needless to say, this humble servant cannot ignore offenders. This is something entrusted to us by the nation; any violator of this would be betraying this trust, whoever he might be. It also ought to be mentioned that the people's genuine servants will be commended. I sincerely hope that all of us are fortunate enough to serve the Islamic Republic.

[Signed] Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

RAJA'I ADDRESSES TRANSPORT MINISTRY EMPLOYEES

GF041144 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i visited the Roads and Transport Ministry this morning at the invitation of ministry employees and the workers Islamic society.

Raja'i made a speech thanking the roads and transport employees for their efforts. He said: As workers and employees, you have to mobilize all your energies for the sake of maintaining this revolution, which is in need of unity and solidarity.

Referring to the manufacture of spare parts, he said: These parts that you have manufactured with your hands are important. What is more important, however, is shaping man, who must be considered one of the greatest accomplishments and achievements of this revolution. If man is being shaped, all difficulties are rendered surmountable.

After his speech brother Raja'i distributed prizes to exemplary workers and employees of the ministry.

Later he participated in a meeting of the roads and transport minister and officials, during which he discussed ministry issues and problems.

NABAVI, KHAMENE'I SPEAK DURING FRADAY PRAYERS

LD031613 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Report on speech by Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi and sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Friday imam of Tehran, at 3 April prayers in Tehran]

[Text] Tehran's committed Muslim citizens today eagerly flocked to Tehran University, the site of Friday's congregational prayers, and with their cohesive, monolithic ranks held this religious-political ceremony of Islam in the utmost grandeur. Prior to the reading of this Friday's congregational prayer sermons, which were attended by a group of families of Khuzestan's martyrs, among others, Minster of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi referred to the country's economic situation during the era of the former regime and the dependent economy which we have inherited. He also spoke about the economic problems and difficulties besetting our country at present: We have had and continue to have some 18 to 20 million people living in the cities who have no role in production but have merely been consumers. Everything that they eat and wear, and even the material for their housing, is imported. All in all our consumption, instead of relying on domestic production, has relied and continues to rely on imports.

In another part of his speech the Minister of State for Executive Affairs said: Our budget last year was planned on the basis of an oil income of 1,750 billion rials. Because of the imposed war, this sum decreased by some 900 billion rials, which was about one-third of the budget. If we add to it the problems arising from increasing military expenditures, the financial crisis and other factors one can comprehend the scope of the existing difficulties.

He also said: [Begin recording] As for securing food, of course, we are rather ashamed of ourselves in front of the people since we have not been able to produce food for the people as we should have done, in sufficient or even greater quantities. All of our committed, Islamic, revolutionary people know, however, that the war costs a great deal.

Our older generation can recall--of course I myself cannot remember, but I have been informed of such things--that during World War II Iran only experienced 3 days of war, after which the Imperial Army surrendered and foreign forces entered Iran. Theree days of war--after three days of war we were beset with a five-year wave of famine in this realm. All of a sudden lump sugar was being sold at 45 tumans [450 rials] for 3 kg. I am sure our elderly brothers and sisters well remember that. They remember how much famine and hunger came to beset this realm, how much hoarding came about. If you rember the accursed Mirashrafi--it seems he was killed but I am not quite sure--he became a billionare by smuggling tires then. You can see how widespread the smuggling, hoarding, monopolizing and so forth was.

Brothers, pay attention; sisters, pay attention. We have been fighting for 6 and 1/2 months despite the economic condition which the former regime left us as a legacy. By the will of God--and not just for the present--I promise you once again that if this war were to continue for another 2 years at its present level or even at a greater level of ferocity we would be able to resist in the best possible manner. [Shouts of "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader"] [end recording]

[Following this Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, the Friday imam of Tehran, read the prayer sermons. In his first sermon he referred to the plot hatched by the enemy's propaganda media aimed at breaking the unity of our revolutionary Islamic nation.

He said: Despite these plots our nation is monolithically united and continuing its march along the path charted for it by the imam of the Islamic nation. Reporting on the situation on the western fronts, Mr Khamene'i added that extensive unity rules on all these fronts. He described the advances made in the western region as good and hopeful and referred to examples of the people's acts of material and moral self-denial and those of our military brothers. He described the army's morale for continuing the war as excellent.

He added: The satans are planning to foment war among the Shi'ite and Sunni brethren, brethren whose blood I myself witnessed as having been cemented on the battlefronts. He then referred to the acts of self-sacrifice by our Sunni brethren in Paveh and in the west and said: By God there is no more joyful feast for the foes of Islam than to see our Shi'ite and Sunni brethren in discord and warring together. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i added: I proclaim that anyone, from whatever branch, group, denomination or faith who might attempt to sow discord among the Shi'ites and Sunnis will be perpetrating treason against Islam, the Koran and the prophet of Islam. Criticizing the radio and television organization, he demanded that the writers of this unit should act in the service of the people.

In his second sermon Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i said: [Begin recording] The international radios have recently claimed that the danger of communism in Iran is an immediate and serious danger. Foreign and mercenary radios and the writers of major foreign newspapers whose pens are for hire, whether in Europe or in the United States, whether in the reactionary Middle East or Arab countries, maintain that anti-U.S. demonstrations and anti-U.S. slogans in Iran are organized by the communists.

In doing this they wish first of all to make those believing in Islam among the nations of the region pessimistic with regard to the Islamic revolution in Iran. They contend that in their revolution--although it came about under the name of Islam and Islamic slogans--it is the non-Muslims who wish to gather the fruits of the revolution and also to install the thought in the Muslim nation which believes in and is committed to Islam that their revolution is being threatened by the communists. This is being done in order to divert the attention of the people from their sure and mighty foe, that is, oppressive U.S. imperialism and the governments backing it, to another direction and thereby to open a new front in the midst of the people.

Second, the aim behind such propaganda is to pave the way for possible imperialist aggression in the region. For some time now one has been hearing whispers about the establishment of rapid deployment forces in the Persian Gulf or in some other spot in this region. These forces are being formed by the expansionist and aggressive political powers. Under the pretext of confronting communism they wish to pave the ground for an aggression against the borders, honor, dignity and glory of the Islamic nation of Iran and the nations of the region. They wish to concoct an excuse to launch an attack on the region.

We declare that the anti-U.S. slogans in Iran do not belong to any particular group or faction; they belong to the entire Iranian nation. [shouts of "God is Great," Khomeyni is the leader"] This vigilant nation of ours, because of the leadership of the imam of the Islamic nation, has identified its real foe and is aware of what the United States has done to this nation throughout the past black years. Our children today are the enemies of the colonialist system, are the enemies of the ringleaders of the U.S. regime and of all the odious western regimes. Such talk emanating from venal foreign radios is no longer acceptable and credible to our nation today. Moreover, our nation is wide awake and knows that the radios wish to level accusations at it through the media. The communist current in Iran has been and is an extremely weak current. In the past when we held marches on the streets and when we gave our lives when confronted by the bullets of the cruel myrmidons and the vicious hangmen of the regime, in those days the reactionaries in the region and their overlords said: The communists have risen in Iran!

What kind of communists were these who marched chanting "God is Great," laying down their lives and those of their dear ones for the name and path of God? Communism has been and is a weak current in Iran and today our people have never been more attached to Islam and our youth have never been more devoted to Islam. People! Praise this! [shouts of "God is Great"] Before and after the revolution the few elements attached to the Marxist groups dealt so many blows against these people that the hearts of these people shall never lose their hatred of the communists. [prolonged applause and shouts of "God is Great"]

The greatest weapon for fighting erroneous thinking, Marxism and Marxist atheism is today in the hands of the Iranian nation, that is, progressive Islamic thought. Who could stand up to communism like the Iranian nation? This great nation, this heroic nation, this combatant nation, this nation which waged war for the sake of God, gave martyrs and in which mothers and fathers are still sending their young people to the battle front for the sake of God. They accuse this nation of being influenced by an handful, by a few followers of this or that school of thought! This is a grievous calumny, a crime to top all crimes perpetrated by the world propaganda machines. [end recording]

MONTAZERI RECEIVES VARIOUS ISLAMIC GROUPS IN QOM

LD031246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Bureau, this morning, members of the Islamic council of the villages of Birjand, the resistance groups of the mobilization of Amir Kala and Robat Karim, the mobilization of the Fatah mosque in Esfahan, brothers from the Damghan Islamic Revolution [word indistinct] Bureau, teachers from the Literacy Movement of Zanjan, members of the Cultural Department of Districts 1 and 2 of the Tehran Revolution guards Corps, the Ayandeh Sazan Islamic and Cultural Center, and the Islamic Societies of Shahabad and some of the Tehran districts met with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom.

At this meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri expressed the hope that the current year would be full of blessing and success for the Muslims and said: If we want to pray to God to make this year a year of blessing for us, so that we can compensate for the backwardness caused by the regime of the shah and his father, we must move ourselves and not be restricted by slogans. He said: If you had stayed in your houses and had said, "Death to the Shah," you would not have gained anything. You sacrificed your lives and offered martyrs, God helped you, and you became victorious. You should now have confidence as well.

Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the sensitive responsibilities of teachers and reminded them of their important role in the Islamic upbringing of children and youths. He then addressed the sisters: Basically, women play a greater role than men in bringing up and, particularly, educating children. You should endeavor to play this effective role in the best way possible.

Regarding treatment of political groups, Ayatollah Montazeri said: Treat them moderately and kindly and remind them that if they split up and lose unity of expression the enemy will take advantage of this and will again dominate us.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Montazeri again urged workers, farmers, pupils and all strata of society to increase their efforts more than ever and not listen to the poisonous propaganda of the counterrevolutionaries and of the internal agents of the colonialists, so as to become rid of dependence and make the Islamic revolution of Iran an example for the people of the world.

MONTAZERI DELIVERS QOM FRIDAY SERMONS 3 APR

LD031322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] The glorious and enemy-breaking Friday prayers, in the third spring of freedom, was held at the holy shrine of Ma'sumah and in the surrounding streets under the imamate of Ayatollah Montazeri. A large group of people from various strata and pilgrims to the holy shrine took part.

The Friday imam of Qom, in his first sermon, after wishing glory to the prophet, the 12 holy imams and all the combatants of Islam and those who assist in the war efforts, began interpreting the Falaq verse of the Koran.

In the second sermon, addressing the heads of the so-called Islamic countries, Ayatollah Montazeri said: The fate of Mohammad Reza might await you, too. Do not place your interests, the interests of Muslims, at the disposal of America, and do not open the way for the defeat of Muslims by supplying 80 percent of the United States' oil and piling up dollars in the banks of that country.

In another part of the second sermon, he said: Saddam's sin is not only the act of imposing war against Iran and being an agent of colonialism. The goal of the Ba'th Party, from the day that it came to power in Iraq, has been to destroy Islam and the Muslims. He added: the nation of Iran offers its condolences to the honorable family members of Ayatollah as-Sadr and the entire nation of Iraq on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of his eminence and his gracious sister.

Addressing the good-will mission, which has come to Iran to settle the issue of Iraq's aggression through negotiation at a time when there is no other way open to Saddam, he said: the good-will mission should know that as long as the Iraqi Armed Forces are inside Iranian territory, negotiations are impossible; and the criminal Saddam himself must be put on a trial in accordance with Islamic regulations.

Addressing oil company drivers, he said: Under the present circumstances, one of the most important issues is that farmers' fuel requirements be supplied, and these brothers must avoid a slowdown, and they should repay their debt to the revolution by performing their duties.

COMMENTARY ON HAIG TOUR, U.S.-IRAQ RAPPROCHEMENT

GF051652 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Middle East and New Developments in The Region"]

[Excerpts] The visit to be paid to Saudi Arabia by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is regarded as the beginning of certain developments in the Middle East. This visit was planned within the framework of the global interests of imperialism after the conservative Reagan administration took office in the United States. According to PARS, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Michael Sterner's visit to the Middle East was to confer with a number of countries in the region on the question of deploying a multinational military force in the Sinai Desert. The idea of a multinational force was taken up during the Camp David summit. The idea was that either the United States or the United Nations would deploy this force in place of the occupationist Israeli troops to defend the Sinai Desert.

Thus, by attempting to implement the Camp David agreement without any consideration for the interests of the troubled Arab peoples, the United States has made it known that it has embarked upon putting into effect its antipopulist policy in the Middle East, which is in line with the interests of the regime that has occupied Jerusalem. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to Saudi Arabia, and, more important, the question of selling F-15 fighter planes and spare parts to Saudi Arabia, which has caused an uproar in congress, sheds more light on the U.S. plan.

[Words indistinct] U.S. imperialism has taken a new turn in implementing U.S. military policy. In effect, this stand constitutes the basis of the Reagan administration's foreign policy. The irony is that on the eve of Alexander Haig's visit, the Saudi press has welcomed the gradual development of relations between the Fascist Baghdad regime and the United States. The Saudi press has said that Alexander Haig attaches importance to developing relations between the United States and Iraq and that the new U.S. administration has cautiously moved to display its good will toward Iraq. The same press has also noted that one of the northwest African countries was actively engaged in mediating between Iraq and the United States.

When this development is taken into account, it becomes obvious that, as the pro-American Saddam and his lackey's become totally overwhelmed by U.S. influence, the United States will have a better opportunity to influence the region militarily. Preparations for such influence have already commenced.

It is common knowledge that the situation created by the fascist Baghdad regime has helped Israel achieve its goal in suppressing the poor people of Palestine. Thus global imperialism and Zionism are achieving their military and political objectives.

AFP has reported that the reestablishment of relations between Iraq and the United States might create an opportunity for Alexander Haig to hold talks with Iraqi officials. This agency has also reported that Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi has held talks with former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at the United Nations. On the other hand, reports that Henry Kissinger had conferred with Iraqi officials during his tour of the Middle East have not been refuted.

While the world press is occupied with the question of the reestablishment of relations between the United States and Iraq, another matter is gaining importance; namely, the possibility of the United States selling modern arms to Iraq.

Iraq, on the other hand, which now feels closer to U.S. policies in the Middle East, is also aiming at establishing closer ties with an organization set up by a number of Arab states in the region.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION TALKS WITH USSR TO CONTINUE

GF060834 Tehran PARS in English 0730 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] Tehran, 6 Apr (PARS)--The 12th subconference on economic cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union will be attended by a committee of Iranian representatives during the last 10 days of April in Moscow.

The organization of ports and navigation announced that cooperation in solving problems regarding ports and marine transportation will be considered during this conference, which is being held under the auspices of the main economic conference on cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union.

The Iranian mission will be composed of representatives from the ports and navigation organization, the Foreign Ministry, Commerce Ministry and the transport organization of the country.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 455-459

455: Military Successes

LD032016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Communique 455 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name.

Operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the battle-fronts are as follows:

1. Yesterday the self-sacrificing combatants of the ground forces brought the Iraqi Army positions in the occupied Zone in Khuninshahr and in Al-Faw inside Iraqi territory under artillery and heavy weapons fire. As a result, 24 of the enemy forces were killed and 13 others were wounded. In these operations the enemy lost 2 trucks carrying ammunition, 3 military vehicles and more than 70 boxes of heavy ammunition and equipment. Aslo, on the same front the heroes of our navy, by opening intense fire on enemy positions, managed to destroy one tank, one ammunition dump, one antiaircraft gun and several foxhole and slit trenches belonging to the enemy and killed or wounded a considerable number of servicemen in Saddam's army.

2. On the Abadan and Ahvaz fronts yesterday exchanges of fire between Islam's combative forces and the aggressive forces of the Iraqi Army were continuing. In these operations Saddam's mercenaries brought the residential areas in the cities of Abadan and Ahvaz under the fire of long-range batteries and missiles, and homes were damaged. Also, at 2040 yesterday the city of Ilam came under an enemy air raid; casualties and losses were inflicted. At 2035 these mercenaries brought the residential area of the city of Dezful under missile attack; this savagery also caused losses.

3. On Wednesday one aggressive aircraft belonging to Saddam's army was shot down by the fire of the guardians of the skies of the Islamic homeland in the region of Farsiat in the south of the country.

4. Yesterday several aggressive Iraqi aircraft attacked several border cities in the south and west of the country; they were forced to flee by the air defense fire of the combatants of the armed forces based in those areas.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

456: 3 Apr Fighting

LD041856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Communique 456 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, enjoying unshakable will and determination and assisted by God, are continuing with their destiny-making battle against Saddam's warmongering aggressors. Some of the Islamic soldiers' battle operations and events on the war fronts on 3 April 1981 are hereby recounted as follows:

A. Operations in the western region:

1. In the country's western region artillery and mortar exchanges were in progress, and in the Sumar region a number of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded by the fire of our self-sacrificing personnel's weapons.

2. In Naftshahr, our able soldiers opened artillery fire on the Iraqi invaders' positions, destroying four of the enemy's collective entrenchments and four military vehicles; a number of Saddam's personnel were killed.

3. Islam's able warriors in the Marivan region succeeded, by mounting artillery fire on the positions of the invading Iraqi Army, in destroying a number of the enemy's individual entrenchments as well as killing a number of enemy personnel in the border region of Marivan.

4. Once again two Iraqi soldiers and six civilians, after surrendering themselves to the Sar Dasht garrison, were given Islam's protection and thus released from the black domination of Saddam's regime.

B. Operations in the southern region:

1. Exchange of fire between our valiant combatants and soldiers of Iraq's Army in the Khuninshahr region continued. As a result of fire mounted by the combatant units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the enemy's positions in the occupied region of Khuninshahr, one machinegun and one antiaircraft weapon were destroyed and their crews were killed; as a result of enemy retalliation two of our valiant personnel were injured.

2. The artillery fire of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran mounted on the observation tower of a [word indistinct] the center's radar was hit and certain damages were inflicted on it.

3. Yesterday and today the enemy once again brought the resisting and hero-fostering cities of Abadan and Ahvaz under its artillery and mortar launcher shelling, as a result of which five houses were damaged.

4. Today Iraqi aircraft attacked posts in Goran, Serd, (Oushan) and [name indistinct] in the country's western region but were forced to flee from the fierce fire mounted by our air defense. Meanwhile, seven Iraqi invader aircraft which violated the airspace of a few western and southern cities were forced to flee yesterday following the fire mounted by ground-to-air defense units.

457: Air Raid in Iraq

LD041730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Communique 457 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Beware that God's army will become victorious. [Koranic verse] The fast-flying eagles in the skies of Iran, the proud pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today dealt the greatest blow on the evil and criminal corps of the enemy in a surprise attack. In a heroic and admirable opration carried out deep inside Iraqi territory, they destroyed four enemy bases together with all the planes stationed there and returned to their Islamic homeland unharmed.

The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran congratulates Imam Mahdi [the hidden imam], may God speed his coming, his deputy, His Excellency Ruhollah Khomeyni, and the muslim nation of Iran on this great victory, and wishes to express its thanks to the courageous and selfless pilots who, assisted by the blessings of God and for the greater glory of the Islamic Homeland, have achieved this victory, and to all the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

458: 64 Iraqis Captured

LD041734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Communique 458 issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The Muslim and struggling nation of Iran, the fighting and selfless forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran sheltered by God's assistance, are gaining more victories every minute and are adding to the enemy's defeat and demise. At 1400 today, the fighting front-line soldiers of the 21st Hamzeh Division, on one of the southern fronts of the country, launched a number of successful attacks and dealt deadly blows on the enemy. They destroyed a unit of the Iraqi invaders. In these operations, 64 of Saddam's forces were captured by the army of Islam and a large amount of military equipment was taken from the Iraqi mercenaries as booty.

We beseech Almighty God to grant victory to all the selfless, faithful soldiers of Islam.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

459: Blackout Regulations

LD051810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Communique 459 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Last night when, as a result of the observation of a number of enemy planes in the country, a red alert was declared in Tehran, some of the dear fellow citizens unfortunately did not observe the blackout regulations. This might have been due to the fact that they did not have their radios or televisions switched on. All the fighting and revolutionary compatriots are expected to always be alert at this time when the Islamic country of Iran is in a state of war, and when red and yellow alerts are declared they are expected to carefully observe the relevant regulations so that the enemy cannot achieve its vile aims in its attacks.

All the compatriots, especially the fellow citizens in Tehran, are sincerely requested, in the event of a red alert being declared, to immediately switch off all the lights in their houses, workplaces and other premises and go to suitable shelters. Offices, banks and other organizations after office hours, and shops and stores after closing should have their lights switched off so that if a red alert is declared, the lights of these premises will not be on. During the red alert the drivers of all vehicles--trucks, buses, minibuses, taxicabs or private cars--should stop their vehicles, turn off their lights, leave their vehicles and go to suitable shelters. In particular, drivers who either enter or leave a town should bear in mind that their cooperation in stopping their cars and turning off their lights is very important.

It is obvious that when the threat of an enemy attack has been eliminated and the white condition has been declared, dear compatriots can turn on the lights in their houses and return to normal activities.

We express our thanks to the revolutionary compatriots who, by observing wartime regulations, assist their self-sacrificing military brothers and we beseech God Almighty for a speedy victory for the forces of God.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran